

REMARKS

In this paper, claims 1, 6, 18 and 19 are currently amended. After entry of the above amendment, claims 1-20 are pending.

Claims 6-7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112 as being indefinite. Claim 6 has been amended to depend from claim 4 to avoid confusion of terms.

Claim 19 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Patterson (US 5,533,937). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claim 19 has been amended to clarify that the base member is structured to be nonrotatably mounted to a bicycle frame to extend downwardly, wherein the base member includes an outer cable sheath stopper, and wherein the outer cable sheath stopper is oriented so that an inner cable extends upwardly at a location where the inner cable exits the outer cable sheath stopper when the base member is mounted to the bicycle frame. Patterson, et al discloses a derailleur wherein an outer cable sheath stopper (72) with an orifice (70) is oriented so that an inner cable (34) extends horizontally and downwardly to an entrainer plate (76) with an entrainment surface (78) with a profile that controls the actuation ratio of the derailleur. Entrainment surface (78) changes the direction of inner cable (34) so that inner cable (34) extends upwardly to a cable clamp (80). As a result of this structure, pulling inner cable (34) causes a link mechanism to pivot downwardly and inwardly to move a chain guide (110) accordingly. Patterson, et al's inner cable (34) must have the horizontal orientation shown so that entrainer plate (76) may control the actuation ratio. Modifying the orientation of Patterson, et al's inner cable (34) where inner cable (34) exits outer cable sheath stopper (72) would destroy this capability. Thus, Patterson, et al neither discloses nor suggests an outer cable sheath stopper oriented so that the inner cable extends upwardly at a location where the inner cable exits the outer cable sheath stopper.

Claims 1-3, 8, 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ozaki, et al (US 4,789,379). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 18 have been amended to clarify the orientation of the link base. More specifically, the basic orientation of the derailleur is clarified by reciting the chain guide being coupled to the second portion of the link mechanism so that the chain guide moves relative to the base member to move a chain laterally inwardly toward and laterally outwardly away from a plurality of sprockets. The link base extends laterally outwardly away from a lower end portion of the base member so that the link base extends laterally outwardly away from the plurality of sprockets when the base member is mounted to the bicycle frame. Thus, applied to Ozaki, et al, “laterally outwardly” must be interpreted to be leftward in Fig. 2. However, none of the portions of Ozaki, et al’s base member used to connect links (7) and (8) extend laterally outward. All such portions extend downward or laterally inward. As noted previously, this arrangement is exactly opposite the arrangement recited in claim 1, and it increases the lateral size of the derailleur because the side of the base member must be located sufficiently outwardly to accommodate not only the links themselves but also the outermost lateral positioning of the links.

Claims 1-3, 8, 11-15 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being unpatentable over Ozaki (US 5,597,366). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

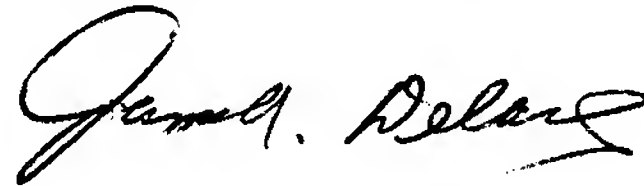
Ozaki, et al discloses a derailleur (1) comprising a downwardly extending base member (3), a lower portion of which extends laterally inwardly (to the right in Fig 2, since “laterally inward” is defined as the direction toward the sprockets when the base member is mounted to the bicycle). Thus, Ozaki neither discloses nor suggests the subject matter recited in the amended claims.

Claims 4, 6 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki in view of Swiss patent no. 337,740. This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above.

Claims 5, 7 and 10 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ozaki in view of Swiss patent no. 337,740 and Torii, et al (US 2001/0017496). This basis for rejection is respectfully traversed for the same reasons noted above. Furthermore, Torii, et al has nothing to do with bicycle derailleurs.

Accordingly, it is believed that the rejections under 35 U.S.C. §102, §103 and §112 have been overcome by the foregoing amendment and remarks, and it is submitted that the claims are in condition for allowance. Reconsideration of this application as amended is respectfully requested. Allowance of all claims is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "James A. Deland".

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